Kim Grosscope 7/17/74 HW

Well, everything has happened!

Last night I had a visit from two Secret Service agents whose story for being here was not unimaginative and whose interview was quite reasonable. For they did have reason to wonder if someone was planning some kind of assassination.

We were finishing supper to the TV news, CBS, when I heard a car drive in. It was a hot day and to be comfortable Lil was not fully clad. I met them outside, she finished dressing, and they preferred staying outdoors.

Earlier I had had a strange call, a person-to-person call to a may whose name is that of one who runs a talk show on a station in Laurel, which is between Baltimore and Washington. I had done the show several weeks ago, by phone. Only time.

These men, named Daugherty and Kratz, were from the Baltimore Filed Office. Daugherty just assigned there or temporarily there on this case. His card still says WFO but he crossed it out. Each began by showing me his credentials, not just flashing them. Holding them out long enough for me to read.

They asked me if I know Kim and I said I'd met him about three times and had heard from him one evening recently. They assumed correctly how I had met him, which told me they had conducted other interviews first.

It seems that Sunday night at about 11 o'clock he had been found prowling near Laurel, near the home of a TV director mutual friend (through whom I met him) with a rifle and a scope. And in his car there were but four items when he was picked up after he left - after being observed. A scoped rifle, 140 rounds of ammo and two books - mine - with Frame-Up inscribed "You, too, have a dream." Well, I could see how that could make them interested. And wonder what dream!

The dream had nothing to do with assassinations. He had, when he was first here, just given notice on his Immigration service job because he had an offer in Miami, as an entertainer, and that is what he really wanted to do.

They were apologetic, but I felt and told them their visit was proper and to please ask whatever questions they wanted. If the FBI had interviewed JFK assassination witnesses the way these two did us-and reported honestly-the result would have been different.

We both felt Kim did not have his feet firmly on the ground and that he did have some emotional problems. The Miami deal had fallen through in a way that did not make sense, his marriage had broken, and the first time he was here I had trouble understanding his speech, which alone made me wonder if he were on some kind of stuff. Lil remembered his brother's name and we both had the impression brother Greg is a solid man. And I remembered a call Kim had made, which must have been hard for them to believe,but I told them-to Kleindienst's home. Said Kleindienst was friend and lawyer. We had all left the house then to give jim privacy. He had not reached "Dick."

What made it all worse and I suppose harder for them to understand is that Kim had, as they suspected, been turned on by the books. But not the way they suspected. There is nothing in my writing to encourage anyone to emulate a lone-nut assassin because the writing is in the opposite direction, debunking the whole nothing, as I tried to explain. It was easier with Ray. I told them that in fact I had tried to discourage the kinds of "news" stories that had been contrived, using shrinks, to make it seem that assassinations by those seeking the feeling of impirtance is natural for the disturbed and offered to show them some with letters to editors warning them of the consequences. They may not have liked it but showed no reaction when I told them this writing had followed the partial deciphering of a real threat their agency had dismissed as nutty, and I said that from that case I did not believe they should dismiss all seemingly nutty threats as no

more than the self-indulgence of an exercising sick mind because one could always be serious and try ti carry it out and some of these could be made to make sense, as that one had been.

They seemed uneasy, apparently anticipating some objection on my part to their asking any questions. I tried to reassure them on this in several ways, first telling them that I abhor violence and the intrusion into society's functioning by any assassinations, that I think I understand the positions in which the agents were at the time JFK was offed, and that I had had a fairly decent relationship with their agency, as distinguished from the FBI, until DJ had leaned on Kelley. Once we understood their apprehensions about what Kim might have in his mind if he is disturbed, we tried to help them by making what suggestions we could simply because theirs is a reasonable suspicion. What the hell is anyone doing prowling close to midnight with a scoped rifle and all that ammo? And how would I have felt in their position when the rifle, the ammo, and two books on assassinations were the only things in an otherwise clean car? I also took them around, showing off our tame fish. (They seemed to really enjoy the bass, bluegills and golden trout coming to be fed and made a number of exclamations about it.) I pulled some young sassafras for them to take to their kids....I would have been embarrassed had the positions been reversed because the implication that these books had turned Kim on if he is disturbed- and Lil and I both had had the feeling he might be can't be ignored by men with their obligations.

We tried to remember as much as we could. Lil's recollection was better than mine.

Apparently Kim is in the Laurel pokey and they seem to think he'll be out soon.

I expect the man through whom we met him to be here this week. Dave Simons, director of Harambee and several canned commentators fed to small nets and Westinghouse by WTOP.

I did not remember the name of the very silent young woman who had been with him and Dave the first time he was here but Lil did and they confirmed it, so they had checked back past that, probably thought Dave. We gave them our favorable impressions of the brother, who is a psychologist.

Aside from these things to try and reassure them that we regarded their visit as proper I tried to explain that I do believe the emotionally ill, especially if weak characters, can be turned on, that the central idea of The Bilikin Courier is an established fact from the Copenhagen case, and I suggested that if their have these kinds of cases to look into and they do not dislike reading they might read it. They didn't ask how to spell the name or that of the author (which I don't recall anyway).

I expect to hear from Kim when he is out. He has been going around telling people of my books (without my getting a single inquiry) because Dave told me this. I tried to explain to the agents that some impressionable people are turned on by merely meeting someone who has written a book and that if Kim were turned on by them it was more this way than by suggestive content. The suggestions, I said, were not from my writing but from the official stories, in which there is this danger- that mine have to have the opposite effect, if any, because that writing takes the official story apart. Of course all of this assume rationality. Figuring the irrational is not easy.

Because we find their visit proper and reasonable and because the cause of their interest makes sense, we found the whole thing a bit odd. Certainly no complaint about it or their conduct or their questions. Until there is some acceptable explanation of Kim's behavior they should have suspicions and should inquire. They asked me to call them if I hear anything that should interest them and I asked for a card in the event I do. They gave Daugherty's.